

IN 2021 **75** Young Creatives TOOK PART IN



The Paper Birds

# THE SCHOOL

# OF HOPE

Where art meets change

a digital, multi-artform project for young creatives aged 13-25 exploring the theme of **empathy**

Through a series of films, provocations and creative tutorials, produced by The Paper Birds and 4 exceptional diverse British artists, specifically commissioned for the project, the young creatives were encouraged to be socially and politically engaged through debate, dialogue and the connections they made.



The young people reflected on diverse values and beliefs and creatively shaped their thoughts into different artworks in an aim to address the isolation they had experienced during the pandemic, increasing a sense of purpose and levels of empathy.

The School of Hope provided a platform for the young participants to be recognised as artists in their own right, and enabled them to share their vision for their future and that of the generations to come.

Sheffield Theatres | Cast  
Mercury Theatre | Theatre Centre  
National Theatre - UK  
Boom Arts & Playwright | USA  
Padepokan Seni Bagong Kussudiaraja  
Indonesia  
Vancouver International Children's Festival  
Canada  
Victoria Deluxe | Belgium

[www.theschoolofhope.com](http://www.theschoolofhope.com)



The impact of the project was measured using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Evaluation methodologies were devised in collaboration with academics Dr John Lambie, Dr Laura Taylor and Professor Katrina Brown from University College Dublin, University of Exeter and Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge.

## Young creatives took part in:

- **Baseline surveys**  
to measure their sense of empathy before and after project
- **Evaluation Interviews**
- **Sent informal 'inbox us'**  
digital feedback after each workshop

The quantitative research from our Academic Report found that by the end of

**53%** Empathy & in Prosocial Behaviour  
**INCREASED IN**

"I was able to step into people's shoes a little bit more... And then also understand myself & how I go about being empathetic in my daily life."

"I believe that there are two sides to every question & try to look at them both"

"I am concerned for moral issues (for example, fairness, welfare of others)"



**64%** Civic Participation  
**INCREASED IN**

Our participants said they

- Engaged in political issues
- Fundraised
- Boycotted certain products
- Signed a petition
- Campaigned
- Volunteered

"As a collective, as a core, we definitely have all grown. Emotionally we have matured around each other..."

Our qualitative research revealed a number of key themes identified by the participants including:

- They felt they were in a safe space
- They found the confidence to express themselves
- They felt more sociable & made connections
- It was a transformative project
- They have a new understanding of empathy

"As the younger generation, we feel we've got a voice, & we feel like we've got a responsibility to actually change & do something"

